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LETTER DATED 9 DECEMBER 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 7 December 1999 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, giving details of renewed Turkish aggression against Iraqi territory in the north on 26 November 1999. The Minister urges the United Nations to meet its responsibility to prevent any continuation of the intimidation and aggression to which Iraq is being subjected.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 7 December 1999 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

Further to the letter dated 2 December 1999 addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq (S/1999/1225, annex), I should like to call your attention to the fact that on 26 November 1999 units of the Turkish armed forces backed by tanks and long-range artillery and supported by helicopters entered Iraqi territory by way of the Ibrahim al-Khalil bridge in Zakho, the Durnakh bridge in Bikufah and the Barzan sector in Irbil Governorate. They engaged in wide-ranging military operations inside northern Iraq in the Kani, Masi, Bikuf, Shiladizi, Amadiyah, Dayraluk, Qadash, Atrush, Jabal Karah, Jabal Matin and Jabal Haftin areas on the pretext of being in pursuit of armed Kurdish groups.

This act of aggression by Turkey is the latest in a series of recurring attacks by its forces against Iraq's territory, and it coincides with the hostile military actions being perpetrated against the country on a daily basis by the United States of America and the United Kingdom.

The ongoing series of hostile operations and the flagrant violations of Iraq's territory and airspace that are being committed by the Turkish armed forces only confirm Iraq's repeated warnings against the consequences of the duplicitous policy being pursued by Turkey vis-à-vis the anomalous situation in northern Iraq and against its participation in perpetuating that situation for the implementation of the United States and British scheme to use its territory as a base from which to impose the no-flight zones in northern and southern Iraq and prevent the restoration of legitimate authority there.

In condemning the renewed Turkish aggression, the Government of Iraq calls upon the Turkish Government to withdraw its invading forces from Iraqi territory. It reserves in full its right to determine a time and a place to respond to this bellicose act, and it affirms the right of the Republic of Iraq, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to ensure that Turkey bears full international responsibility for the consequences of its recurring bellicosity, its violations of Iraq's sovereignty and its exposure of Iraq's security and territorial integrity to the gravest risks.

As I express the hope that the United Nations will fulfil its responsibilities as stipulated in the Charter and will halt the constant intimidation and aggression to which my country is being subjected, I ask you to do your utmost to urge the Turkish Government to comply with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law by withdrawing its armed forces from Iraq's territory forthwith.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs